

I CLAIM:

1. A method for manufacturing an embossed mat, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a foamed EVA (ethylene vinylacetate) substrate and a patterned cover sheet;

(b) heating and softening the foamed EVA substrate; and

(c) embossing and cooling the softened foamed EVA substrate and the patterned cover sheet together by stacking and passing the softened foamed EVA substrate and the patterned cover sheet through a nip passage defined by a pair of embossing rollers so as to form the embossed mat.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing a skin layer of the foamed EVA substrate prior to the heating operation of step (b).

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the cooling operation of the softened foamed EVA substrate and the patterned cover sheet is conducted by cooling at least one of the embossing rollers during passage of the softened foamed EVA substrate and the patterned cover sheet through the nip passage.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the cooling operation of said at least one of the embossing rollers is conducted by passing a coolant therethrough.